



Assessment Division

TIDBITS

Tips and Helpful Links

The transition to the new assessments aligning with Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards is underway! Important pilot testing will take place in the spring to be sure systems are ready and teachers and students have an opportunity to sample what's ahead. This issue provides suggestions that will help both you and your students as you prepare to make the shift.

NCSC News



Arizona has been an instrumental partner in developing the NCSC Assessment, one of two alternate assessments being created for students in the 1% population.

In preparation for the operational assessment in the spring of 2015, it will be necessary to conduct pilot testing during the spring of 2014.

Since Arizona is a state of diverse student populations with a wide range of needs, it's important that a representative sample of our students have the opportunity to participate in the pilot to evaluate how the platform and item types perform as students interact with them. This is also an opportunity for teachers to gain an understanding of the test platform, item types, and multi-tier format. Although the assessment is computer-

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based like AIMS A, there are significant differences that teachers need to help their students prepare for prior to the operational assessment.

All districts and charters with eligible students are being asked to register for the NCSC pilot. Registration does not guarantee that a student will be selected from your school or district, but registrations will provide a broader pool for student selection to represent the varied needs across our state.

A selected student will participate in either the ELA or math assessment. The assessment can be administered in segments throughout the pilot window to minimize time away from instruction and is estimated to take between one and two hours total.

Please register at the link below today to be a part of this important work. All registrations must be completed by the end of December. If you have additional questions, please contact the Alternate Assessment Unit at 602-542-8239.

www.ctb.com/NCSCPilot

A live webinar is scheduled next month to roll out information on NCSC ELA instructional supports. These supports will assist both teachers and students in understanding the changes in focus presented by the standards as we transition to the new alternate assessment. The benefit of attending the live webinar is that you may submit questions at intervals, but if you are unable to attend the live webinar, a recording will be available on the ADE website.

For further information, go to:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/calendar/RenderCalendar.asp>

ELA Mega Webinar

January 27, 2014

in

Regional Centers across Arizona

Check the ADE calendar for a site near you

New PARCC Information



The second edition of the *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual* has now been posted on the PARCC website. This is the first of several iterations, based upon data being gathered from item development research, field testing in spring 2014, and the first operational assessment in 2014-2015. It provides information on features for *all* students taking the PARCC assessments – not just those students with special needs. The accessibility features on the computer-based assessment are designed to optimize the performance of each student on the PARCC Mid-Year, Performance-based, and End-of-Year assessments.

During the field testing in AZ next spring, every student will have the opportunity to use such tools as highlighters, colored fonts and backgrounds, and text enlargement – formerly accommodations provided in IEPs. Computer-based design also allows for audio amplification, spell check, line readers, and pop-up glossaries.

For more specific information, please view the Field Test Guidance section at the following link:

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>

The [PARCC PowerPoint](#) presentation, found under Communication Resources, is useful for training purposes, and the [newly revised manual](#) provides detailed information on accessibility and accommodations.

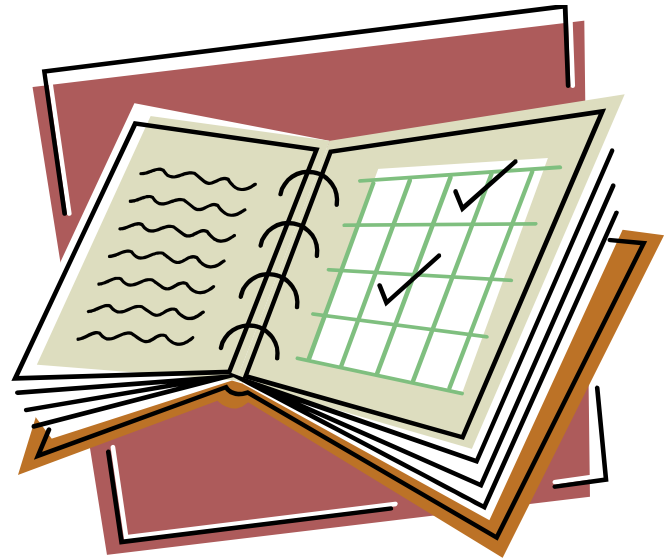
In addition, a number of appendices have just been released that provide guidance on specific issues surrounding accessibility and accommodations. Topics range from unique and emergency accommodations to read aloud and extended time. There's also an appendix with information for those students taking a paper/pencil assessment. An optional *Accessibility Features and Accommodation Documentation* form is available for IEP teams to use as they determine student needs.

Check the ADE Events Calendar

Finally, the *Reading Access White Paper* offers research and rationale surrounding this new option for a select population of students. It will provide IEP teams with guidance in considering a read-aloud accommodation.

All appendices documents can be found on the PARCC website at the link below:

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>



Be sure to check the calendar on <http://www.azed.gov/> to find the latest training opportunities being offered. Take advantage of both in-person and online sessions to increase your skills in teaching Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards.

Contact Us:

Alternate Assessment phone number: 602.542.8239

Email address: AssessingSWDs@azed.gov

Leila Williams, Ph.D., Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment Leila.Williams@azed.gov

Audra Ahumada, Director of Alternate Assessment Audra.Ahumada@azed.gov

Sheila Wells-Moreaux, Ph.D., AIMS A Coordinator Sheila.Wells-Moreaux@azed.gov

Patricia Reynolds, Prof. Dev. & State Assessment Specialist Patricia.Reynolds@azed.gov

Angeles Swasey, Program Project Specialist Angeles.Swasey@azed.gov